



RTCA in Florida

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Florida offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Florida will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Summer Haven River Restoration** – The project goal is to restore the Summer Haven River by reestablishing the river depths and restoring tidal circulation. This effort will protect the river's natural resources and expand the outdoor recreation opportunities. (Location: St. Augustine, Florida)
- **Wekiva Partnership Wild and Scenic River** – The project goal is to develop a plan to protect the outstandingly remarkable values throughout the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System. The process will work to achieve consensus and support from the stakeholders and partners who serve on the Federal Advisory Committee for this river system. (Location: Orange, Seminole, and Lake Counties, Florida)

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Florida contact:

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Family paddling on the Wekiva Partnership Wild and Scenic River. Photo: www.flickr.com-rampartgeneral